

Governor's Hispanic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 24th, 2005, 6: 00-8:00pm
Centro De La Familia, 3780 S. West Temple, S.L.C., Utah 84107

Facilitator, Luz Robles, Chair
Minutes, Anita P. Watson, Office of Hispanic Affairs

Present:

Luz Robles, Chair
Sonia Alacron-Parker
Carmelo Aviles
Elena Bensor
Catalina Corwin
Dan Gomez
Carl Hernandez
Barbara Melendez
Gonzalo Palza
Jesse Soriano
Anita P. Watson, OHA
Bernadette Wolf

Excused:

Norma Villar
Mark Archuleta Wheatley
Silvia Castro- Thomas
Anna Jane Arroyo
Elizabeth Balcazar, OHA

Welcome by Luz Robles, Chair. Meeting began promptly at 6:05pm.

AGENDA ITEMS-

OHA, Director interviews and participation of Council:

Jesse Soriano reported on the interviews conducted for the position of Director, Utah State Office of Hispanic Affairs. Jesse volunteered and participated on behalf of the HAC. Jesse reported there were approximately 4-5 final candidates that were interviewed by Jesse, Bonnie Burley, HR Director and Yvette Diaz, Executive Director, State of Utah, Dept. of Community and Culture. All were ranked on interviewing skills; background, experience and each interviewer submitted individual evaluations and ratings for each candidate. Human Resources conducted pre-screening of applicants prior to interviews. Jesse stated his overall impression was very good, interviews went well and candidates were impressive.

Revisions to the HAC Executive Order & Bylaws:

Jesse Soriano gave "thanks" to Carl Hernandez for providing research support. Jesse distributed individual worksheets to members, which included variations of bylaws and text from other states that have councils/committees similar to that of the council. The information was provided from the following states: Idaho, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Minnesota. Jesse posed the following question to the Council: How should the Council be structured?

Jesse reported many of the Council's were supported under the state, Human Resources and/or under Dept. of Workforces services. None of the bylaws indicated the Commissions/Council served directly under that particular states Governor's Office. Jesse noted, this was a benefit HAC had, having direct contact to the Governor's office

unlike other. However, HAC lacks funding and funding capabilities. Jesse asked members to refer to the specific example of the language on the State of Iowa bylaws. Jesse used this example as a possibility to change wording in the Executive Order. All examples excluding Minnesota are commissions. Minnesota's committee is named, the Minnesota Chicano/ Latino Committee. The names of each committee/ commission differed by the diversity in the particular state. Jesse asked members to brainstorm ideas to be examined as possible changes or amendments to Executive Order.

Suggestions from Council members:

- Include/ invite representatives from each state agency to be non-voting members.
- Consideration of changing the make-up of the membership, i.e., regional members, non-voting members, member-at-large, number of members, demographics, fifteen or more/ less.
- Empowering the role of council, by mandating all state agencies, seeking to change policy that will possibly affect the Latino community, allow the council to review the policies before they take effect.
- Possibility of creating a 501(C) 3 Status to solicit more funding or apply for grant opportunities. Anita Watson, OHA, explained the State of Utah funding policy that state when monies enter state accounts they become State of Utah Funds. Anita also explained the manner in which the dedicated credit fund functions. There is no funding or any language that states the State of Utah has to fund the HAC. A suggestion was made to propose legislation that gives specific monetary responsibilities from the State of Utah to the council.
- Research analyst is appointed to the council to provide statistical data.
- A clearer definition, outlining relationship between council and the Hispanic Affairs Office. Considerations of having the OHA report back to the Council. How should accountability be measured? Explanation of what the structure will look like for the Ethnic Offices. What is the placement of the Council?
- The Council will deal directly with Yvette Diaz, and there should be commitment by both Yvette as Executive Director of Dept. of Community & Culture and the council.
- HAC should address specific authority, conduct studies, propose legislation, reviewing legislation, and sustain support from State of Utah agencies.
- Appropriate HAC member representation that can address the community that the Council is representing.

Political affiliation can be weighed to determine demographics of council.

- Member and/or on-voting members from State agencies, as well as representation from the Governor's office (staff). Set number of meetings with Governor and how often the council should report to the Governor's office.
- Make recommends to Governor regarding socio- economic policy to change legislature.
- Language should be included that indicates or requires state agencies to cooperate with the council. (Cooperate, respond, requesting documents and/or data.)
- HAC membership should be based on demographic and rural geographic representation. Reimbursement incurred for council business travel by members should be included.
- Council should request and apply for funding to obtain opportunities for research and information. HAC should maintain and control it's own monetary funds.
- HAC should be involved in budget meetings that are open to the public during legislation. First two weeks of legislation are budget proposal hearings.

- Creation of Sub-committee of council members to review federal funding applications and submit recommendations on behalf of agencies/ services supporting Latino communities.
- Work w/ the office of Hispanic affairs to create reports that address pertinent issues. Should also address accountability of issues. Submit study and/or statistical data with recommendations.
- Reports are submitted to Governor's office and the department(s) recommendations are reflective upon. Review state government responses. Verify recommendations are utilized and obtain specific measurements.
- The HAC will develop impact (Merit) indicators to measure performance. Jesse asked the council to make suggested revisions to the executive order by considering the following questions: What is the scope of the responsibility of the Council? What are the local, federal and state policies? What could possibly be stated in the order that can make the council more powerful and influential when making recommendations? Does the council agree to maintain the executive order as created or amend some of the wording?

Jesse Soriano suggested to have sub-committee created to make recommendations on behalf of the council who will submit report to Yvette Diaz making recommendations and drafted amendments from list of council members suggesting. Sub-committee will send drafted recommendations to all council members to review, provide feedback and approve. Sub-committee will meet with Yvette Diaz to submit recommendations. Barbara Melendez motioned to have sub-committee create report and provide feedback to Yvette. Dan Gomez seconds the motion. Motion passed.

Six -member sub-committee: Jesse Soriano (Chair), Carl Hernandez, Gonzalo Palza, Elena Bensor, Bernadette Wolf, Dan Gomez. Sub- committee will provide draft of report HAC on Monday, March 21st, 2005. Sub-committee members will meet via Telecom and email.

By the end of month a report should be provided to Yvette regarding the desired ideals of the Council. Recommendations regarding executive order and bylaws should be indicated as well as desired changes on what the role of HAC should be. The council should also consider how often it should make recommendations to the Governor's Office. The HAC can also suggest making recommendations as necessary and determine how often those recommendations should be made.

Follow up items:

- Dan Gomez, will be contact other Commissions obtain their specific deliverables and impact indicators.
- Sub-committee will make drafted recommendations and forward to council for review. Recommendations should be presented to Yvette Diaz, by end of month.

Letter to the Governor's Office, re: Ethnic Directors & SB 227:

Luz Robles reported to the council she did not forward a letter from the Governor's office, RE: Ethnic Directors being asked to resign. Luz stated she did not feel there was a clear consensus on how the council should proceed.

Jesse Soriano motioned HAC should not forward a letter to the Governor's office regarding the resignations. Catalina second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sonia Alacron- Parker suggested the council write a letter to the Governor's office, indicating concerns and opposition of SB227. A letter of advisement. Luz agreed and felt it would be appropriate for the council to write a letter, indicating five potential impacts. The council should write a letter indicating impact of bill, financial, structure of the bill, racial profiling and safety. Elena Bensor motioned to write a letter to address the concern of the council if this bill is passed. Barbara Melendez seconds the motion. Motion carried. Letter will need to be drafted immediately. Jesse Soriano, Gonzalo Palza and Carl Hernandez will draft a letter to the Governor's office, and forward to council for feedback. Dan Gomez suggested having all the council members sign the letter.

Bernadette suggested the usage of a message board to post council business. Bernadette stated she would host and create the message to be used to post important news and/or information. The message board can also be utilized as a standing library. HAC members should update any contact information that has changed.

Anita P. Watson, OHA, reported she has accepted a new position with the University of Utah, Neighborhood Partners and will be leaving the Hispanic Affairs office the third week of March.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24th, 2005 at Centro De La Familia.

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm